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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,657	03/29/2004	Koichi Kawamura	Q80647	1120
23373	7590	05/17/2006		EXAMINER
				MORGAN, EILEEN P
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				3723

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/810,657	KAWAMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eileen P. Morgan	3723	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 17-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 17-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (e) the invention was described in-
 - (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
 - (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 17,33 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lombardo et al.-6,585,574.

Lombardo discloses an abrasive pad for abrading a surface in the presence of an abrading solution comprising a hydrophobic polymer base material, wherein a hydrophilic group is added to the surface of the polymer. At col.2, lines 25-30, Lombardo discloses that the hydrophilic group is added to the surface so the surface is wettable to improve slurry distribution and (col. 4, lines 5-10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103(a)

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.

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Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 18-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lombardo, alone.

Lombardo discloses an abrasive pad for abrading a surface in the presence of an abrading solution comprising a hydrophobic polymer base material, wherein a hydrophilic group is added to the surface of the polymer (col. 4, lines 5-10). Lombardo does not disclose the claimed hydrophilic group or hydrophobic group, however, examiner takes Official Notice that the hydrophilic polymeric additive and polymer base disclosed is deemed a functional equivalent of the claimed groups and the choice of either would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art. In regard to the amount of hydrophilic added, the molecular weight, and thickness of the pad, these are all obvious design choices dependent on machining parameters.

5. Claims 28-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lombardo in view of EP-1138438.

Lombardo discloses an abrasive pad for abrading a surface in the presence of an abrading solution comprising a hydrophobic polymer base material, wherein a hydrophilic group is added to the surface of the polymer (col. 4, lines 5-10). Lombardo does not disclose the pad having a cushioning layer. However, EP-438 teaches a polishing pad having a cushioning layer of elastomer material having a thickness between 0.1-100mm (page 3, last 3 lines). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time invention was made to provide the pad of Lombardo with a cushioning layer, as taught by EP-438, in order to more uniformly planarize the entire face of the substrate.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 2-28-06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant alleges that Lombardo does not disclose the claimed invention. However, throughout the entire summary and specification, Lombardo discusses the pad made of hydrophobic material with an additive to the surface so that the pad surface is wettable which improves slurry distribution (col.2, lines 25-30). In addition, at col. 5, lines 58, the additive can be smeared to coat the pad. This reads on the claim language of the present invention. Applicant argues that Lombardo's pad is partially

hydrophobic and partially hydrophilic, however, the additive is added to the surface and can be within the base material, as is also claimed by applicant, claim 33.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eileen P. Morgan whose telephone number is 571.272.4488. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (Office), Friday (Work at home).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail can be reached on 571.272.4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EM
May 15, 2006



EILEEN P. MORGAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER